

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 ICA-11 DOE-15 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7470
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEAN, E
SUBJECT: US/ASEAN MINISTERIAL -- AGENDA

REF: (A) STATE 147474, (B) JAKARTA 7523

1. SUMMARY. MRS. MANALO HAS INFORMED US (SEE SEPTEL) THAT THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERIAL MEETING REQUESTED THE GOP TO CONVEY TO THE USG THE PRIORITY AND IMPORTANCE ASEAN ATTACHES TO THE SUBJECTS ENUMERATED BY THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS, AND THAT THE TASK OF ARRANGING THE AGENDA ITEMS BE LEFT TO THE USG SO AS TO ALLOW SECRETARY VANCE, SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE. HER DEPUTY JOE FERNANDEZ CLARIFIED THESE

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POINTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA SUBJECTS. THE SUBJECTS ENUMERATED BY THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS WERE REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF JAKARTA 7523. FERNANDEZ PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM THE REPORT OF THE SIXTH ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERIAL.

QUOTE. FOR THE FORTHCOMING SECOND ASEAN-UNITED STATES DIALOGUE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON 3-4 AUGUST 1978, THE MEETING AGREED TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS:

- FIRST DAY (3 AUGUST) - NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THE COMMODITY PROBLEMS; TRADE ISSUES INCLUDING ACCESS TO MARKET GSP AND MTN;
- SECOND DAY (4 AUGUST) - INVESTMENT, INCLUDING TAX DEFERRAL, OPIC AND SIMILAR ISSUES. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, INCLUDING COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND REGIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES. UNQUOTE.

3. ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE. THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS ALSO PROPOSED A LONGER LUNCHEON SESSION WITH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND SAID THAT THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THE MINISTERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES. GOP UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER, THAT RAJARATNAM WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE ASIA SOCIETY. ASEAN IS INTERESTED IN THE REASON BEHIND THE PROPOSED VISIT IN LOS ANGELES. IF THE USG BELIEVES IT IS USEFUL TO PUBLICIZE ASEAN IN THAT AREA OF THE UNITED STATES, ASEAN WOULD CONSIDER SENDING THE NEW ASEAN SYG ALI ABDULLAH ON A SPEAKING TOUR. (EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR MAY WISH TO OFFER ITS OPINION OF ALI ABDULLAH AS A SPEAKER.)

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LAST SENTENCE IN PARA 6 OF JAKARTA 7523 REFERS TO AN INTERNAL ASEAN POSTMORTEM ON THE US/ASEAN MEETING.

4. AUGUST 2. FERNANDEZ SAID THAT ASEAN WAS UNABLE TO ADDRESS SUGGESTIONS FDR AUGUST 2 IN STATE 147474, PARTICULARLY AS THE DELEGATION HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMED. FERNANDEZ COULD NOT GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF ASEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE ASEAN DELEGATIONS.

5. ASEAN DINNER ON AUGUST 4 WILL BE HOSTED BY ASEAN MINISTERS, NOT BY GENERAL ROMULO.

6. FERNANDEZ WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT MRS. MANALO'S SUGGESTION THAT THE PRESIDENT MEET WITH ALL ASEAN DELEGATIONS IS BEING WORKED ON. SHE HAD STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING ALL RPT ALL MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS AT WHITE HOUSE EVENT.

7. REFUGEES. FERNANDEZ SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, AND THE USG SHOULD EXPECT THAT ASEAN WILL STRESS

THE REFUGEE ITEM IN THE AUGUST MEETING.

8. COMMENT. IT WAS CLEAR THAT ASEAN DID NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE OR THE SUGGESTED NON-OFFICIAL PROGRAM. BOTH THE ASEAN FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS SEEMED TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS, ESPECIALLY THE SUBJECTS ENUMERATED BY THE LATTER. MRS. MANALO IS EXPECTED BACK IN MANILA ON JULY 2, AND SHE WILL BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN "NEGOTIATE" WITH THE U.S. ON THE ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE. MORE ON AGENDA IN SEPTEL. END COMMENT. MURPHY

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